

Committee Chairman Pat Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Paul Reed, Pat Sherman, Dr. Eric Kapke,  
Don Hanlin, David Payne, Dale Tumey,  
Forrest Chambers.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, and Role Call, Dr. Eric Kapke made a motion to approve the Minutes from the meeting held on March 19, 2009. Mr. Forrest Chambers seconded the motion, and it passed with a vote of 7-0.

#### **Sub-committee Reports**

**Finance** Chair Mr. Paul Reed reported that additional tasks have been added for the members, using outside sources to gather information. Mr. Andrew Wiesman has prepared a graph to be presented to the Sub-committee. Mr. Reed stressed that all Sub-committee meetings were open to the public. The one-on-one fact-finding meetings cannot be advertised, but the resulting Sub-committee meetings are. Mr. Reed advised that there is a meeting scheduled with the Department of Local Government Finance. He added that he would like to schedule a meeting with the other Sub-committee Chairs to review the information that the Finance Sub-committee will need from each Chair. Mr. Sherman agreed and noted that all of the Sub-committees will have input for the Finance Sub-committee and will need to advise where they are in their deliberations, so that this information can be used by Finance. He added that this discussion could be held in a future meeting prior to the Sub-committee break-outs. Mr. Reed advised that tax models are being prepared for this information. He also wanted to acknowledge, and express his appreciation for the hard work from all of the members, and also the people that have been contacted to provide information.

**Health and Safety** Chair Mr. Forrest Chambers reported that information and reports are being prepared from the information received from the Fire and Law Enforcement Officials. Written reports have been submitted regarding the Nuisance Complaints. The group is still working on the Ordinances, with the Greenwood Ordinances covered, and work being done to find out more about the County Ordinances, which is much more difficult. The Township government was covered by Ms. Gail Richards, and she has resigned as of 4/1/09 due to the workload and time constraints relating to her new position as President and CEO of the Johnson County Community Foundation. Mr. Chambers read Ms. Richard's letter of resignation, which clarified that her resignation is due solely to this new position, and she would have enjoyed working on the sub-committee. Mr. Chambers has temporarily taken over those responsibilities, and has contacted Mr. Ed Woods to replace Ms. Richards. Mr. Woods has accepted the position.

**Planning and Land Use** Chair Mr. Dale Tumey reported that this Sub-committee has had two meetings and have one scheduled for next week. Maps have been furnished by Mr. Paul Mauer regarding zoning and geographical information. The group is studying

the possibility of having a rural district in the southern part of the township, with consideration of different/special rules for those residents. The purpose of this is to guarantee that those in the area could continue to farm, and have that type of rural community lifestyle.

**Governance** Chair Mr. Don Hanlin reported that most of his members were able to attend the meeting with Ed Ferguson (Planning Dept., City of Greenwood) where procedures and planning issues were reviewed. The Comprehensive Plan of the City of Greenwood has been completed, and the County is working on its plan. If there is a reorganization, it will be necessary to have some “translating” done, as the two entities do not have the same number of different zoning areas, and terms may sound the same, but do not necessarily mean the same thing. The Sub-committee also met with Mr. Norm Gabehart (Director of Operations, City of Greenwood), who provided job descriptions of city employees. The City Departments are working on compiling lists of assets, and the assets from White River Township have been listed. In their meeting, Mr. Hanlin stated that Mr. Gabehart expressed his concern regarding the transition, for example, snow removal. A study of the streets to determine how this will be done will be required. Mr. Gabehart also provided the Sub-committee with a chart of City Departments and explanations of the various Boards.

**Parks and Recreation** Chair Dr. Eric Kapke reported that the inventories have been completed for White River Township and Greenwood. Information has been received from Mr. Johnston (Johnson County Parks Director). The next work of this Sub-committee is considering how the Parks Department could be set up if there was a reorganization.

**Infrastructure** Chair Mr. David Payne advised that this Sub-Committee would be meeting immediately following the Committee meeting tonight. They are working on roads and storm water utilities, with last June’s flooding information gathered.

Mr. Hanlin advised that it was his understanding that the Sheriff’s Department and the Highway Department was preparing reports for the Committee, and wanted all to be aware of this.

Mr. Sherman made some recommendations regarding Sub-committee Vice-Chair changes. He suggested the following:

Paul Reed to Planning and Land Use  
David Payne to Health and Safety  
Dale Tumey to Infrastructure  
Dr. Eric Kapke to Governance

Mr. Sherman asked that the newly appointed Vice-Chairs receive their assignments from their respective Chairs.

**New Business**

Mr. Sherman introduced Mr. Jeff Wikle (Information Technology Dept., City of Greenwood), who has built the website for the Committee, acknowledging his excellent work. Mr. Wikle reported that the website address is [www.wrt-gw.org](http://www.wrt-gw.org) and displayed the various pages available. Each Committee member had a monitor to view this, and the Chamber contained large monitors for the audience to view. The pages available on the website include the Mission Statement, Committees, Objectives (I.C. Code), Schedules-Agendas, Minutes, Recommendations, Sub-Committee Objectives, Common Objectives, individual Sub-committee pages and Objectives with their findings. These findings may eventually result in recommendations. If Sub-committees provide Minutes, they will be posted also. Under the Administrative section, the process by which the Committee is working is shown, and the Indiana Statute IC 36.1.5 is shown with the two main chapters that apply to the Committee's work reflected. The Resolutions passed by the City of Greenwood and White River Township Board are shown, and any other Resolutions will be posted as they are passed.

Mr. Sherman noted that the part of the IC code requirement that applies specifically to a particular Sub-committee is highlighted in red on that Sub-committee's list of tasks, showing that the item is required by law.

Mr. Wikle continued, advising that the process diagram is shown, and Mr. Sherman explained that this is a flowchart of the actual process. The Reorganization Timeline is on the website, with the tasks also listed separately, showing the status of those tasks, and will be updated as the work is completed.

Mr. Sherman explained that the Reorganization Plan with the presentations and dates were to reflect a skeleton, with dates to be inserted as presentations are made (and dates for presentations confirmed) to the Greenwood Council and White River Township Board. The Reorganization Project Recommendations are listed as they are studied by the Committee.

The contact page reflects the website email addresses for all of the Committee Members, the Advisors, Assistant, and Webmaster. Mr. Wikle was prepared to advise each person how to set up their email procedure. Mr. Hanlin advised that his name had been misspelled, and Mr. Wikle assured him that it would be corrected.

In other New Business, Mr. Hanlin asked when a clarification on "indebtedness" would be forthcoming. Mr. Sherman advised that he is planning to question the Department of Local Government Finance concerning that at the meeting planned for the following day.

**Old Business**

Mr. Sherman advised that, concerning the Time Line, all tasks were on time. He advised that Mr. Griffin and Mr. Mellott could not attend the meeting tonight.

**Any other business to come before the Commission**

A gentleman in the audience asked if the items studied and recommendations made will also affect the farmers on the east and southeast side of Greenwood. Mr. Sherman advised that the farm community will encompass everyone in the farm community. He added that the Planning and Land Use Sub-committee will be studying that, and the issue will involve the entire community, noting that this area is almost the entire south side across the area.

Mr. Forest Chambers expressed his concern regarding existing debt of Greenwood. He stated that he was uncomfortable with the thought of asking the people of the unincorporated section of White River Township to absorb some of the existing debt of Greenwood. Mr. Chambers realizes that the facilities are sometimes used by White River residents; however, he feels that the people of White River Township did not create the debt, as it was created by the City Council and the Mayor. The people of White River did not have a chance to vote to have any input, or vote for any Council Member or for the Mayor. He compared it to taxation without representation. He noted that many people of neither Greenwood nor White River Township use facilities, the services of the police, and the streets. He advised that if the reorganization did happen, all of the people would be responsible for the taxes, but he feels that the people of White River Township should not be required to pay existing debt of Greenwood. Mr. Hanlin advised that this had been discussed in the Governance Sub-committee, advising that Greenwood is bringing millions of dollars of assets to the plan which the entire new city would own, which he feels is the other side of the coin. He added that the people of White River Township would be receiving millions of dollars worth of assets, basically free. Mr. Sherman noted that Chapter 4, Section 40 of the law is very specific concerning this issue. This is a discussion that will be ongoing, with no animosity involved, involving much study. He added that reasonable people will discuss this and make reasonable decisions. No decisions have been made on this issue. The only decisions that have been made, Mr. Sherman stated, is that the city will be called Greenwood, and there will be more than one district. No decision has been made on debt or tax, stressing that those will be made in a public forum to determine how two great communities can be combined. Mr. Chambers advised that he agreed with most everything the Committee is doing, but this is one area that he has a problem with. Mr. Sherman assured him that this will be an issue that will be continually studied, and discussed.

**Adjournment**

At 7:10pm, Mr. Sherman stated that the Sub-committees could meet, with final adjournment after those meetings.

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WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP – GREENWOOD REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE  
Greenwood Council Chambers, 2 N. Madison Ave., Greenwood, IN  
April 2, 2009  
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After the Sub-committee meetings, and with no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

  
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Patrick A. Sherman, Chairman

**RECAP OF MOTIONS**

Minutes of 3/19/09 Committee Approved, 7-0.